our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Winter 1991

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Publisher of

Our Fourfooted Friends

Arthur G. Slade
Editor

Bob Howard
Photo Editor

M. Arlene Reilly
Consulting Editor

Officers

John C. Hatch
Chairman of the Board

Arthur G. Slade
President

Hewitt Morgan
Treasurer

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
Assistant Treasurer

Richard A. Hall
Secretary

Directors

Walter M. Bird, Jr.
Paul J. Brennan
Mrs. Alexander H. Bright
Shepard Brown
Mrs. George M. Cushing, Jr.
Mrs. John E. Dawson
Mrs. David Dearborn
Rev. Robert W. Golledge, D.D.
Richard A. Hall
John C. Hatch
Franklin King, Jr.
Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall
Hewitt Morgan
Paul T. Norton
Harold H. Seward
Arthur G. Slade
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
John F. Sugden, Jr.
Philip W. Trumbull
Mrs. Prospere Virden, Jr.
John L. Worden III

Administrative

Thomas H. White
Director of Operations

Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.
Director of Veterinary Medicine

Robert P. Kennedy
Controller

Arthur E. Penny
Director of Administration

Alan B. Borgal
Law Enforcement Coordinator

Terrie Bierig-Neyland
Public Relations Coordinator

Edward J. Powers
Education Coordinator

Animal Shelters

Boston
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts.
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265
Katherine Dwyer, *Manager*
(617) 426-9170

Cape Cod
Route 6A, E. Brewster, MA 02631-0023
Lynda Brogden, *Manager*
(508) 255-1030

North Shore
378 Highland Ave., Salem, MA 01970-1744
(508) 744-7910

Dedham
Pine Ridge Animal Center
238 Pine St., Dedham, MA 02026-4005
(617) 326-0729

Safford Memorial Animal Shelter
Robert G. Walsh, *Manager*

Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals
Michael P. Thomas, *Superintendent*

Animal Friends Summer School
96 Megansett Rd., N. Falmouth, MA 02556-0800

Affiliations

Red Acre Farm
Hearing Dog Center
109 Red Acre Road, Stow, MA 01775

New England Federation of Humane Societies
Boston, MA

American Humane Association
Denver, Colorado

World Society for the Protection of Animals
Boston, MA (Regional Office)

Our Fourfooted Friends
(US ISSN 0030 6851) *Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221.* Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Post Master: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts, and other mailing locations.

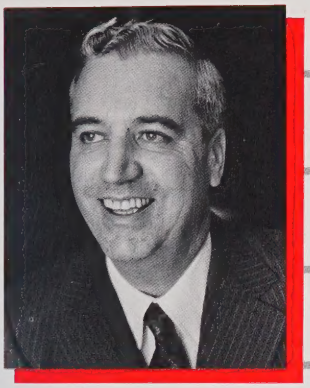
Winter 1991
Volume 88, No. 4

COVER:

"Wojo" has a home for the holidays — and the rest of the year — with ARL veterinary technician Trish Taylor.

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the President . . 3
Raccoon Rabies Threat 4
Legislative Update 6
Animal Photo Contest 7
Annual Fair 8
Animal Relief in the Gulf 9
Starting Over 10
Veterinary Update 13
Newsfront 14
Animal Friends 16
Pets in the Picture 18



Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ways to Secure the Future

We are excited about the establishment of our new Animal Friends Bequest Society and the potential it holds for securing the League's future.

In difficult economic times, it is especially troublesome to contemplate the uncertain future for any organization. Yet, there are ways that our friends can make provisions now to deal effectively with their estate and provide a very meaningful gift to the League in the years to come.

Many of you received an initial notice from us several months ago about the Animal Friends Bequest Society. We have had a substantial response to this notice and I am especially grateful to those who have included the League in their wills or are planning to do so.

This type of giving is an essential part of the League's support and its opportunity for future growth. I hope many of you who have not done so will give special consideration to making this kind of commitment. A gift of this nature can be one of the most gratifying acts a person can perform.

There are a number of ways you can help to secure the League's future, and I would like to list the major ones:

1. Charitable remainder unitrust — you reserve a lifetime income; the Animal Rescue League receives the remainder on your death.
2. Charitable remainder unitrust — your spouse or other beneficiaries receive lifetime income; the League receives the remainder upon beneficiary's death.
3. Pooled income fund — you participate in a trust arrangement with a minimal contribution; income will be paid to the designated beneficiary or beneficiaries for life; the League receives the remainder upon beneficiary's death.
4. Gift of real estate with reserved life estate — you retain your house for life; upon your death it goes to the Animal Rescue League.
5. Gift of real estate with reserved life estate and annuity — same as 4 above but in addition you receive a quarterly cash payment.
6. Gift for general purposes.
7. Gift for specific purposes — for example, to fund a particular program, endow a facility, or provide a piece of equipment.
8. Gift restricted to use of income only, whether for general or specific purposes.

The language necessary to accomplish your wishes is highly technical and should be prepared by your attorney, preferably in consultation with the Animal Rescue League of Boston's attorney.

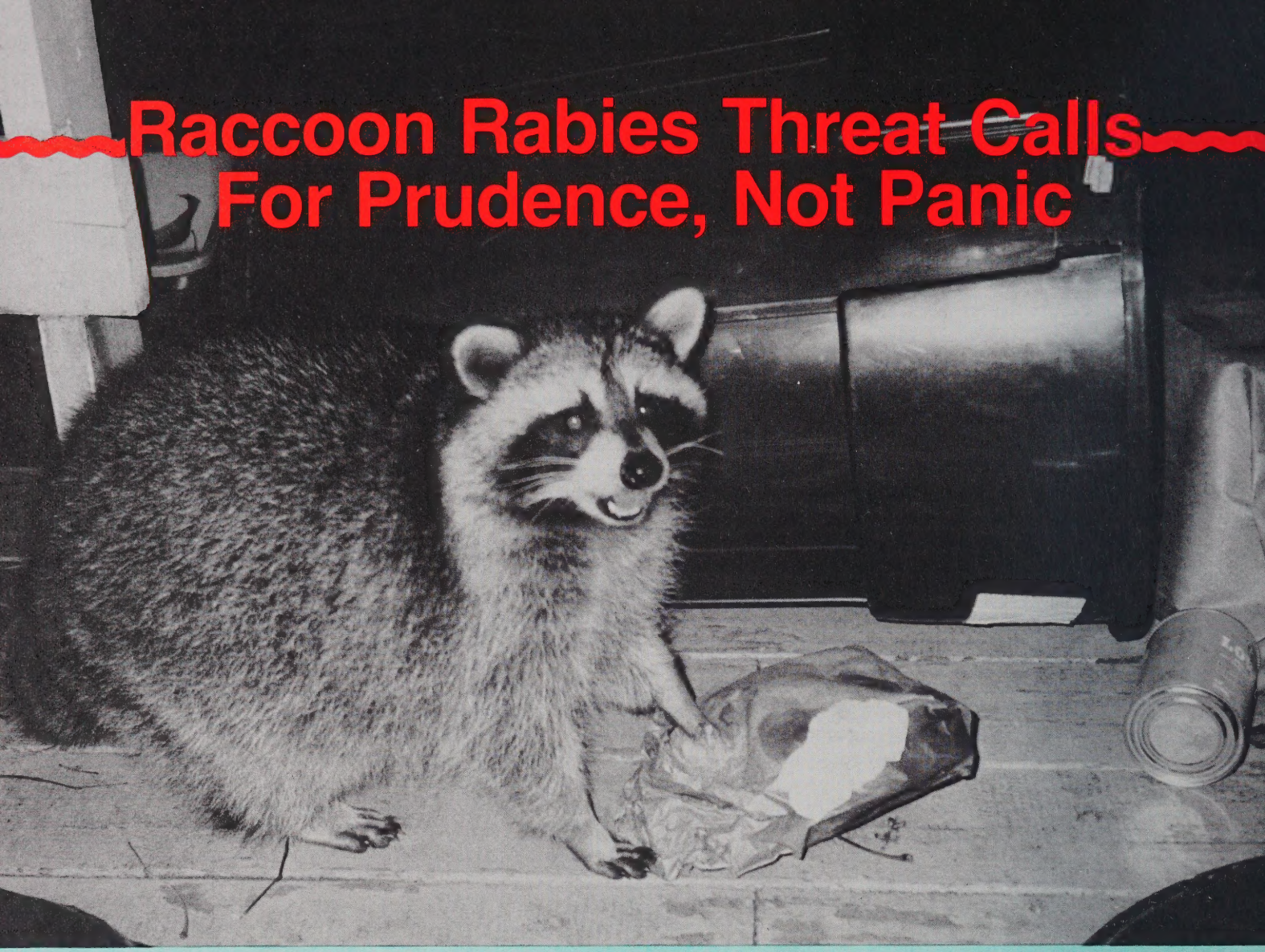
A gift can consist of almost anything — money, bank accounts, securities, works of art (which would be sold for the League's benefit) or real estate. If a gift is to take effect at death, it may be contained in either your will, or your trust, depending upon the structure of your estate plan.

The information presented here is intended as a general guide. Laws pertaining to bequests vary from state to state. You should consult your own attorney with respect to the effect of a bequest to the Animal Rescue League of Boston on your own particular estate and tax situation, and your attorney should also prepare and review your will before you sign it.

I am always available to discuss any aspects of the foregoing with you, and indeed, we have found it mutually beneficial to the League and its benefactors to discuss, in advance of drafting, any complicated, restricted or unusual gifts — to better insure that the wishes of you, the donor, can be carried out as you desire.

May we wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Raccoon Rabies Threat Calls For Prudence, Not Panic



Leaving snacks around for raccoons is a dangerous practice. *Photo by Toby Lynne Schwartz*

An outbreak of wildlife rabies among raccoons which spread from the mid-Atlantic states up through eastern New York state and into Connecticut last spring could reach Massachusetts as early as spring of 1992, prompting the League to join state public health officials in urging the public — particularly pet owners — to take steps now to minimize the threat of rabies to pets and people.

The first rabid raccoons in Connecticut were reported in April, 1991 when two cases were identified in the town of Ridgefield, near the Connecticut/New York border. By November, 98 cases of rabid raccoons had been identified, as well as five skunks and two woodchucks infected by the raccoon rabies strain, presumably contracted through an encounter with a raccoon, according to Dr. Stephen Egbertson, rabies supervisor for the Connecticut Health Department's Virology Laboratory. All of the cases are in the southwestern area of the state.

Though no rabid raccoons have been found in Massachusetts so far, the first cases of land animals with rabies since 1981 were reported this year when two gray foxes carrying a bat rabies strain were found in Agawam and Rehoboth. Twelve rabid bats have been identified this year, a total of 11% of those tested. While these cases are unrelated to the raccoon rabies outbreak, "the rabies virus in raccoons may become prevalent in raccoons in Massachusetts as early as 1992," according to Barbara Werner, Ph.D., director of virology and clinical investigations at the Massachusetts Rabies Laboratory. "Once this happens, the increase in potential exposures will require expanded epidemiologic and laboratory resources to allay anxieties, and to help avoid unnecessary expensive medical treatment," she notes.

The Department of Public Health is currently working with an interagency group to plan various steps to combat an outbreak, including targeted testing of high-risk animals (bats, raccoons, foxes, and skunks), increased surveillance of raccoons, and educational mailings to veterinarians, boards of health, animal control officers, and animal welfare officials throughout the state.

A top priority is the review and revision of pet vaccination laws in Massachusetts. While current state law requires that dogs be vaccinated against rabies, there is no such requirement for cats. "The next session of the legislature will consider a bill to add cats to the vaccination law, and establish quarantine guidelines," Dr. Werner states.

Meanwhile, the League and the Department of Public Health urge

all cat owners to have their pets immunized against rabies. Cats are hunters by nature, and often come in contact with animals at high risk for rabies. In fact, more rabid cats than dogs are now identified each year in the United States. Even housebound cats should be vaccinated, since they can come into contact with bats that have invaded a house. "Domestic animals serve as the bridge between wildlife rabies and people; therefore, protecting pets is a major step toward protecting our communities," a DPH bulletin emphasizes.

People are urged to avoid wild, stray or unfamiliar animals, and contact animal control officers to deal with sick or injured wildlife. Because the raccoon population has become dependent on humans, large numbers of these wild animals are now living close to people. To minimize the risk of encounters, people should not feed raccoons, and should keep all garbage cans securely closed, and clean up trash spills promptly.

Anyone bitten by an unfamiliar animal should immediately wash the wound with soap and water, then call their doctor or local board of health to determine whether rabies treatment is necessary. Current treatment consists of six injections over a one-month period, given in the arm, rather than the stomach muscles as was done in the past. To be most effective, the treatment must be given as soon as possible after exposure.

The rabies threat can best be met with prudent behavior, rather than panic. Don't feed pets outdoors, and never feed stray or feral animals. Do not allow pets to wander loose, and teach children not to approach stray or wild animals, not even baby animals. Chimneys should be capped, and attic and roof openings closed to keep out raccoons as well as bats. Never approach an animal that exhibits signs of uncharacteristic behavior, which includes lack of fear or daytime rambling on the part of raccoons, which are normally nocturnal.

An experimental raccoon bait impregnated with vaccine is currently being field-tested in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but until a totally effective means of eradicating the disease has been found, the best strategy is to respect the boundary between wild and human life, and maintain a prudent distance from high risk animals.

In response to the potential threat, the Animal Rescue League of Boston has started a preventive vaccination program for staff members who have direct contact with wildlife. As the officially designated animal health inspectors for the city of Boston, League inspectors investigate all reported cases of people bitten by dogs or other animals, and are responsible for enforcing quarantine regulations. The League will also sponsor, in conjunction with the city of Boston's animal control department, an expanded series of free rabies vaccination clinics this spring where both dogs and cats can be immunized.

For More Information:

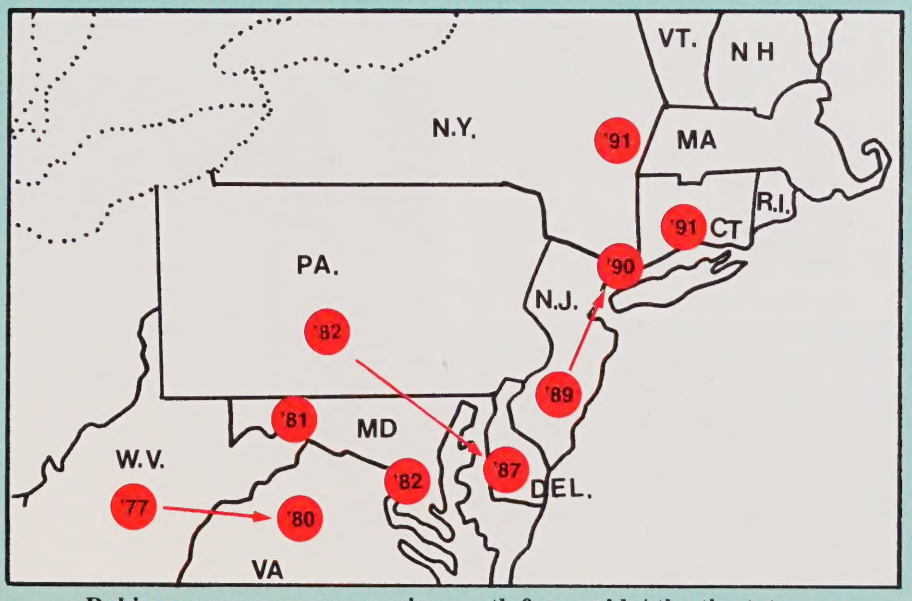
Further information and answers to your questions about rabies can be obtained by calling the following sources:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

Division of Communicable Disease Control
(617) 727-2686
Office of Public Information & Health Education
(617) 727-0049

Animal Rescue League of Boston:

Animal Inspection Department
(617) 426-9170
Outpatient Veterinary Clinic
(617) 426-9176



Rabies among raccoons moving north from mid-Atlantic states.

Legislation to Protect Our Pets

The League has introduced several legislative proposals that are designed to clarify existing animal cruelty laws and increase the penalties in certain cases so that the punishment will better suit the severity and intent of the crime. Members and friends of the League are urged to voice their support by writing or calling their state legislators who will be considering the following bills in the next legislative session.

I. Maiming or Poisoning Another Person's Animal

(Ch. 266, Sect. 112)

As presently written, the applicable law allows for judicial leeway in determining whether a person who kills, maims or disfigures an animal owned by another person, or administers or exposes poison with the intent of harming an animal, is guilty of a felony, which carries a sentence of up to five years in state prison, or a misdemeanor, a lesser crime which currently calls for a fine of not more than $1,000, and not more than one year in jail. The bill sponsored by the League would increase the penalty for a misdemeanor conviction from $1,000 to $5,000, and from one year to not more than two-and-a-half years in jail. **Sponsor: Sen. William Keating (D), Rm. 424, State House, Boston 02133**

II. Maiming or Cruel Treatment by an Animal's Owner *(Ch. 272, Sect. 77)*

Currently, killing or cruelly treating one's own animal is treated as a misdemeanor only, a lesser offense than harming an animal that is the property of another person. Legislation sponsored by the League would place cruelty to one's own animal on the same legal level as harming another's animal, raising it to the level of either a felony, or a misdemeanor, depending on severity and intent. Under the proposed legislation, a penalty of not more than five years in state prison would be instituted for a felony charge, and the misdemeanor penalty would increase from a $1,000 to a $5,000 fine, and a maximum of two-and-a-half years in jail, rather than one year. Passage of this legislation would prevent future situations like the case of exotic animal owner Brian Watson whose tragic mistreatment of hundreds of exotic animals, detailed in past issues of *Our Four-footed Friends,* was punishable under the law as a misdemeanor only, because the animals belonged to him. **Sponsor: Sen. Keating (address at left)**

III. Harboring Another's Animal; Removing Collar and Tag *(Ch. 272, Sect. 85A, B, C)*

Proposed changes in this law would distinguish between the act of someone who, without the authorization of an owner or keeper, holds or harbors a dog or other domestic animal for more than 48 hours without reporting it to the police or local dog officer, versus the action of wrongfully removing the collar from a dog which is licensed and collared. In the former situation, the fine would increase from $100 to $500; in the latter situation, where there is clearly an indication of wrongful intent, a penalty of six months' imprisonment would be added to the increased fine of $500. **Sponsor: Rep. Paul C. Casey (D), Rm. 443, State House, Boston 02133**

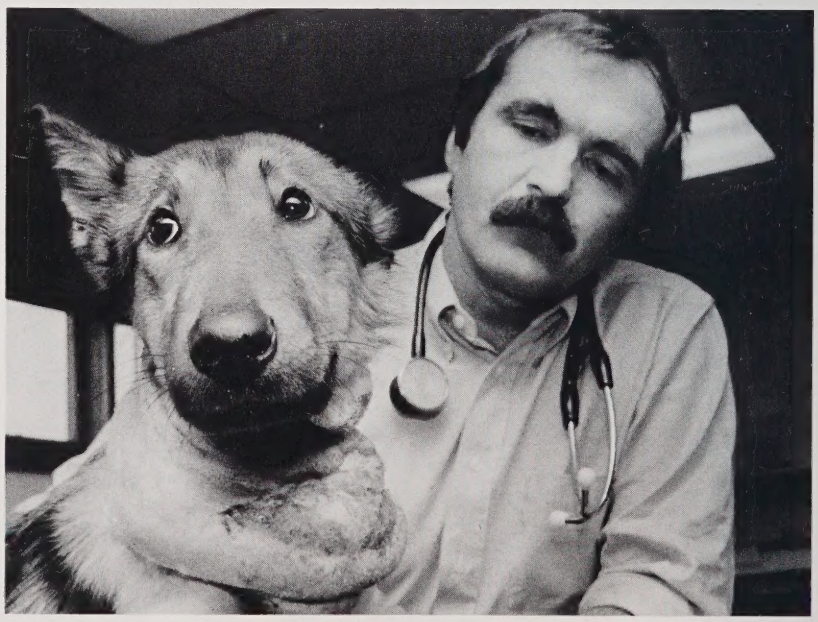


Photo by Arthur Pollack, courtesy Boston Herald.

This gentle young female dog, being cared for by Dr. David Dunn of North Shore Animal Hospital, was found by League agents wandering in Dorchester, severely undernourished with a choke chain collar imbedded deeply in her neck. Changes in the law would increase the penalties for the owner who tied the chain around her neck and then left her in incredible pain.

Give Us Your Best Shot!

The ARL Animal Photography Contest

If the more than 450 entries to the League's last photo contest, held in 1989, are any indication, the League's membership ranks include an abundance of talented photographers whose favorite subjects are their fourfooted friends.

The League is pleased to announce that it will once again sponsor an animal photography contest to recognize and salute the unique beauty, grace and friendship which animals bring to this life and world. The contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages who are invited to submit their favorite animal photos to the League by March 31, 1992. A panel of judges made up of professional photographers will award prizes in two divisions, adult and junior (under 18), for two separate categories, color and black-and-white.

Prizes include gift certificates for photo equipment and supplies in the amounts of $50, $25 and $15, a portion of which has been donated by Cambridge Camera Exchange. Certificates will also be awarded for honorable mention.

Photographs entered in the contest must be unretouched color or black and white prints (no slides, please), enlarged to 5 × 7 inches, or 8 × 10 inches. To be eligible, photos must focus on one or more animals, either alone or accompanied by other animals, people, favorite objects or props. Negatives should be kept by contestants, but be able to be made available for reproduction if needed.

The contest winners will be announced during Be Kind to Animals Week, May 3-9, 1992, and the award-winning photos will be published in *Our Fourfooted Friends*.

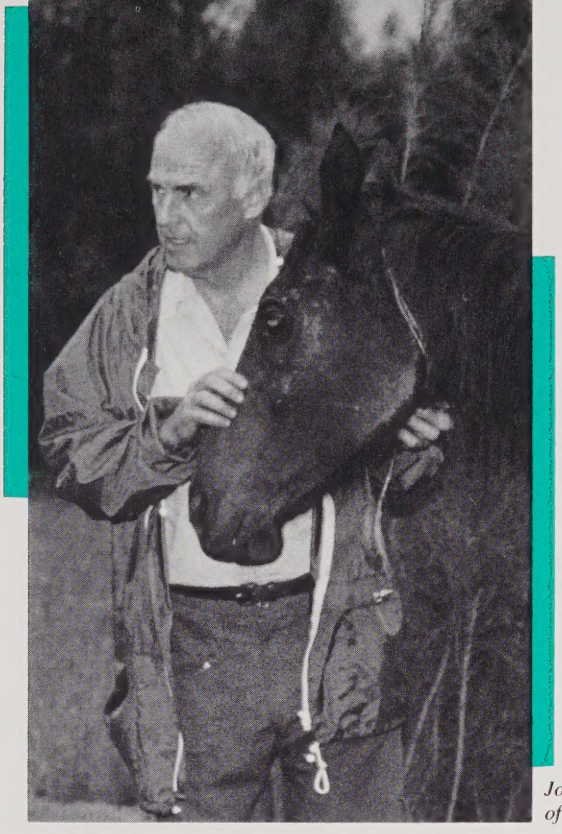
To enter, affix a printed label or sticker to the back of each photo submitted, carrying the following information: photographer's name, address, phone number, and age (junior entries only). Send your entry by March 31 to: Animal Photo Contest, Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117. All photos submitted will become the property of the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

For Best Results

Here are a few suggestions for capturing that purr-fect pose and gr-r-reat shot on film:

- Pick a quiet spot for your photo session, away from other people, noises, or even smells, that might distract the animal's attention.
- Keep settings simple. A background that's too "busy" will detract from the subject.
- Have all props in place, and lights, if needed, set up in advance before trying to pose an animal.
- Come prepared with a whistle or rattle, or even crumpled-up newspaper to make sounds that will capture the animal's attention.
- Whether you're using daylight or flash, be sure the lighting is sufficient to capture highlights, shadows and interesting details of markings.
- For props, employ items that normally interest your pet, such as a paper bag, basket, empty drawer or favorite toy.
- Do not write on the back of your print with a pen or sharp pencil, either of which can damage the surface of your print.

Annual Fair '91



John Walsh, assistant director general of WSPA, led Gulf relief operation.

Animal Relief Operations

An Update from the Gulf

The last of Kuwait's burning oil-wells was capped in early November, but the environmental effects of the Gulf war continue to threaten animal life in the area. John Walsh, assistant director general of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), was in Kuwait this fall to monitor the organization's ongoing animal relief operation and update WSPA members on its progress.

On a positive note, not only are the fires now out, but the food supply in the country is again ample, Walsh reports. The plant that processes grain to produce various types of animal feed is back in operation, and there is a steady stream of hay and grain being transported into the country. In general, the country is recovering from the disaster at a surprisingly rapid pace, with all shops reopened, buildings and homes nearly totally repaired, and massive traffic in the streets. "There has been a great effort to clean up, and everyone is very cheerful," Walsh observes.

The damage to the environment, however, will not be so quick to heal. Of particular concern is the threat to migrating bird populations posed by two ecological disasters: huge oil lakes in Kuwait created by the spewing oil well fires, and the oil-soaked beaches of Saudi Arabia.

Sunlight reflecting blue skies on the oily lakes make the lakes resemble water to the birds, which attempt to land on the "lake" and die in the thick oil. John Walsh has met with representatives of the oil company which is now pumping out the lakes.

Winter bird migration had not yet begun, but each year millions of birds migrating between Europe and Africa use the beaches of Saudi Arabia as a feeding and rest stop. The oil on these beaches has hardened and left a residue that has wiped out crustaceans and insects that were the migrating birds' main food source. "The government has conducted tests to find ways to eliminate the oil, but there will be a long-term problem with the Gulf beaches. The beaches that have oil are sterile of all forms of life," Walsh reports.

All of the horses, burros and sheep that were picked up in Kuwait by WSPA representatives have been returned to their owners, or are in other responsible custodial care. Animals do, however, continue to be killed or injured by accidentally exploding mines or bombs.

Virtually no stray dogs are seen on the streets, but tremendous numbers of stray cats, filthy from oil and ashes, roam the area feeding from rubbish bins and hand outs.

With the help of WSPA supervision, conditions at the Kuwait Zoo have greatly improved. Twenty-four new staff members have been hired, including a veterinarian, and most of the animals are now in fairly good condition, with only a few minor problems.

League members have helped support the post-war relief efforts in the Gulf, by virtue of the League's role as a member organization of WSPA.

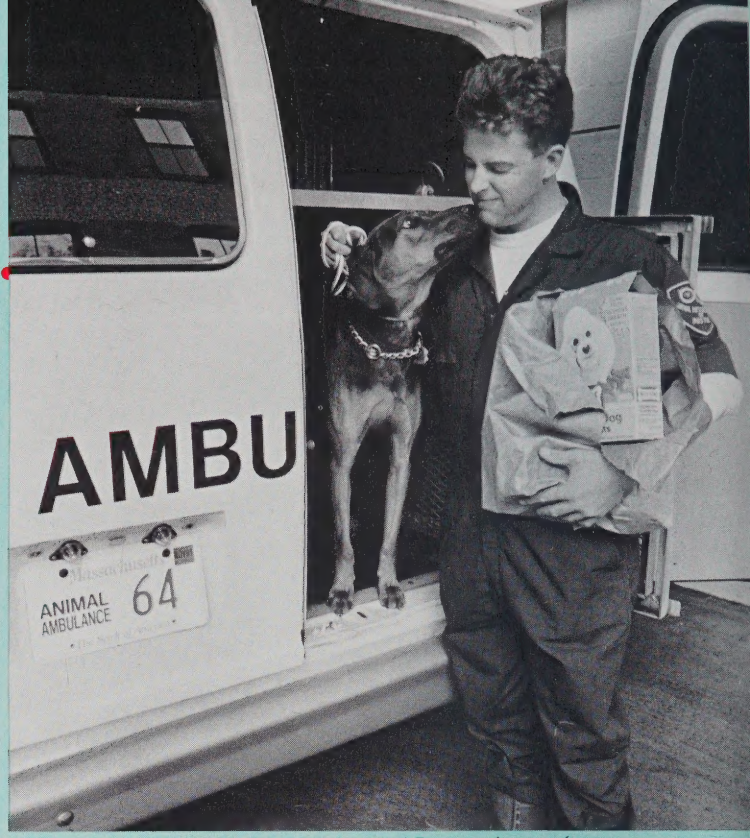
Starting Over:

A Pet's-Eye View

"Rusty" looked somewhat apprehensive as he leaped out of the League ambulance on a chilly October afternoon, but still he managed to give ambulance driver Brian Manning an affectionate kiss. A 1½-year-old chestnut and black hound, Rusty obviously had a lively and loving disposition. It should also be noted, however, that part of Brian's attraction may have been the fact that in his arms he carried Rusty's "luggage," a brown paper bag filled with food, heartworm medication, and Milkbone treats, packed lovingly by the owner who had been forced by illness in the family to give Rusty up for adoption.

Rusty's tail was still wagging as he trotted obediently alongside Brian into the shelter office, but his eyes were growing wary. "What is this place? What's going to happen to me next?" he seemed to be thinking.

Previously-owned animals like Rusty outnumber strays at the League's Boston shelter by a ratio of three to one. Though the League responds to calls to assist sick or injured animals, and holds lost animals of unknown origin in the hope that their owners will claim them, the City of Boston's animal control department is responsible for the majority of the city's stray dog population.



I'd better follow him — he's got my biscuits! Rusty arrives at the shelter with driver Brian Manning.

Now what? Shelter manager Katie Dwyer examines Rusty and assigns him an I.D. tag.

Is this your best private room? Veterinary technician Trish Taylor escorts Rusty to his new quarters in the adoption area.

Is it time to go home yet? Dr. Michael McGuill finds Rusty in good health and suitable for adoption.

One of the first people an animal meets at the League is shelter manager Katherine Dwyer, who does an initial evaluation, checking its general health, condition and temperament. Highly aggressive animals are not considered good candidates for adoption, but accurately assessing an animal's nature at this point calls for a great deal of experience, a sound understanding of animals, and more than a touch of judicial wisdom and intuition. "Even the most gentle animal can turn temporarily aggressive due to the fear and stress of being removed from its home," Ms. Dwyer explains.

Rusty is judged to be highly suitable for adoption and is assigned an identification number and a shelter I.D. tag. For the next few hours, he will wait in one of two rooms set aside for owned animals that are awaiting examination by a League veterinarian. When he first enters the cage, Rusty is given an intra-nasal spray containing a medication to prevent him from catching an air-borne disease called kennel cough from any of his temporary roommates.

In a cage across the aisle from Rusty on this day is a pleasingly plump orange cat named "Pumpkin." The Morris look-a-like was given up by his former owners because a child in the family had developed an allergy to cats. The card on his cage notes that his previous family described him as having a "nice personality," and being "very good with other cats, dogs, adults, children and babies."

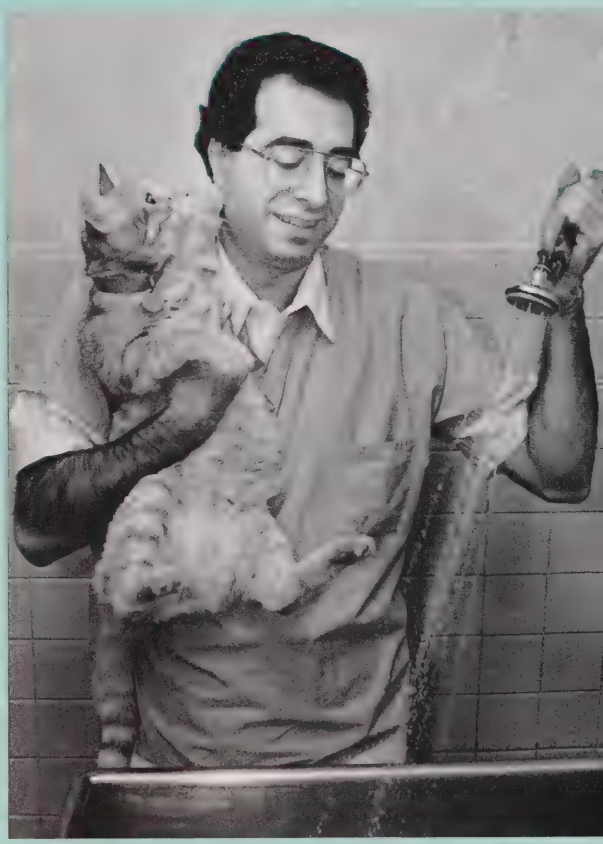
Pumpkin has already passed his veterinary examination, received a vaccination for feline distemper, and is waiting for his feline leukemia test. When the test results turn out negative, he gets a bath, a blow-dry, and a brushing, so that he will look his best in the adoption viewing area.

By the next day, both Rusty and Pumpkin are in the adoption area, looking hopefully at each new visitor who pauses at their cages. They have begun to make friends with the kennel staff members who brought them an early breakfast and cleaned out their cages. Rusty has been taken outdoors by a volunteer for a brisk walk. Within two days, each one of them has been chosen by — and has chosen — his new "person." Pumpkin goes home in the arms of Paul Baldassini, who lives in

Who are these people? Pumpkin is checked by assistant shelter manager Denise Marsolais after being brought in by ambulance driver Steve Giuva.

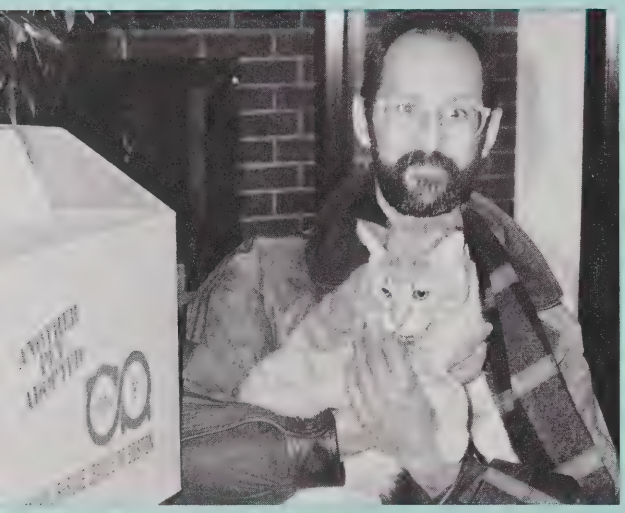
He's got to be kidding! Veterinary technician Alan Thomas prepares to administer Pumpkin's feline distemper shot.

But I ordered the chicken!



Didn't they tell you I'm allergic to water?

This is what I call comfort! Rusty makes himself at home with new owner Jill Damato of East Boston.



I think I'm going to like this guy! Pumpkin leaves for his new home with Paul Baldassini of Boston.

Starting Over
(continued)

Boston. Rusty gets to ride through the Callahan tunnel on route to his new home in East Boston.

Because both Rusty and Pumpkin were already neutered when they came in, they were able to go directly home, once adopted. Had this not been the case, they would have been taken to the clinic for spaying or neutering (an overnight procedure) after they were selected for adoption, and their new owners would have been asked to return to pick them up the next day.

Performing the spay and neuter surgery *after* adoption is a relatively new procedure, one of a number of system innovations designed to reduce to a minimum the length of an animal's stay at the shelter, and the health risks inherent in long exposure to other animals.

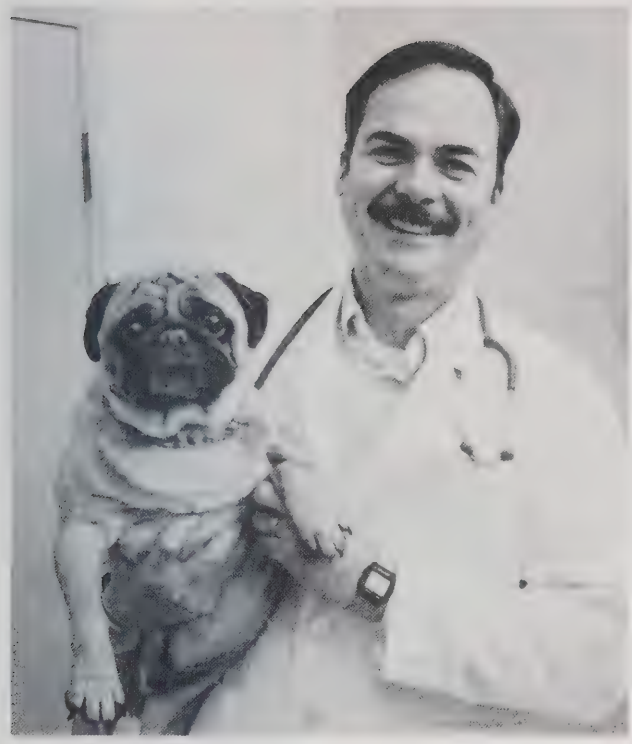
"By moving the animals as quickly as possible to the adoption area, we have managed to reduce the average stay of a previously-owned animal at the shelter down to about three days," Ms. Dwyer reports. New owners have been very cooperative about leaving their pets at the League overnight for the neutering procedure, once they understand that this system not only reduces the animal's chances of contracting an air-borne respiratory disease, but also cuts down on the stress and trauma experienced by an animal the longer it is away from a home setting.

Some pets, like Rusty and Pumpkin, are given up for reasons that are clearly beyond the control of their owners. Far too many, however, are surrendered to humane societies for causes that are preventable. The number of animals being surrendered each day to the League usually peaks in the late summer and early fall, according to Katherine Dwyer. "We see animals being given up for the same reasons, over and over — litters of kittens and puppies that no one was prepared to deal with, landlords that don't allow pets, behavior problems that could be corrected, and, worst of all, unrealistic expectations on the part of people who had adopted pets without giving any forethought to the type of pet selected, and the degree of care it would require."

While shelter staff members continue to work hard each day to deliver the best possible care to the animals in their temporary charge, and make their stay at the shelter as pleasant as possible, each and every one of them looks forward to the day when a better educated and more responsible pet-owner population eliminates the need for these "new beginnings."

BREEDERS' CHOICE

League Public Relations Coordinator Terrie Bierig-Neyland (r) gives information on spaying and neutering to one of the hundreds of owners of pure-bred dogs and dog-loving spectators attending the N.E. Bay Colony Dog Show, held in Boston in November. The League's educational booth at the show stressed the importance of responsible breeding and dog ownership.



A Veterinary Update:

A Pest That Gets Under Your Skin!

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Dog owners should be on the alert for signs of a highly contagious skin disease that seems to be on the rise this year, judging by the increased number of cases seen in the League's clinic. Characterized by intense itching, reddening of the skin, hair loss, and skin lesions that crust and scab, this miserable malady is called sarcoptic mange, also known as canine scabies.

Caused by a parasitic mite that burrows into the skin, sarcoptic mange can also be transmitted temporarily to people and to cats that are in close contact with an infested dog. During the past few months, more than a dozen dogs with the disease have been treated at the League, compared to one or two a year in the past. Stray dogs, as well as owned animals that are allowed to wander and come in contact with strays, are the canine populations most likely to be affected by the disease.

Sarcoptic mites deposit eggs under the skin which hatch in three to ten days. The larvae burrow up to the skin surface to feed and molt into nymphs which travel around the skin surface to feed. These nymphs molt into adults, which in turn mate and deposit more eggs below the skin surface, with the entire life cycle taking about three weeks. Because they prefer skin with little hair, the mites are initially most numerous on the ears, elbows, and the underside of the abdomen, chest and legs. As the disease spreads, hair is lost and the mites can eventually occupy large areas of skin, with secondary bacterial infections developing in the inflamed, irritated skin.

Because of both the intense misery of the infected animal, which is constantly scratching, and the highly contagious nature of the disease, early diagnosis and treatment to totally eradicate the mites is essential. Since laboratory tests of skin samples do not always turn up evidence of the parasites, diagnosis of this disease can be difficult. Sometimes, the problem is mistaken for an allergy. Faced with inconclusive test results, many veterinarians decide, based solely on clinical symptoms, to start treatment to eradicate the parasites. Treatments are usually repeated over a period of several weeks to ensure that mites at all stages of the life cycle have been destroyed.

Since these mites live for only a few days when removed from their natural host, human infestations generally clear up spontaneously once the infected dog is removed from contact. Persons who develop skin problems in such circumstances, however, should consult their doctors.

If sarcoptic mange is suspected or diagnosed, it is extremely important to prevent other animals from coming in contact with the affected pet. Other dogs in the household should be tested, and usually treated, for the disease. Even though the mites do not survive for long off the host animal, the dog's environment should be thoroughly cleaned, and an insecticide spray should be used on kennels, beds, collars, leashes and grooming tools.

NEWSFRONT

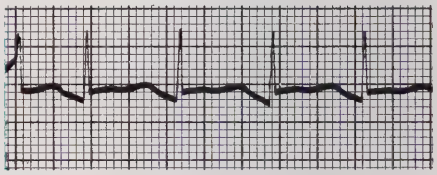
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR HORSES

City, state and MDC police horses will once again enjoy a visit from Santa, Thursday, December 19, 11 a.m., in front of Faneuil Hall. As part of the League's annual Christmas Dinner for Horses, a tradition since 1913, Santa will deliver carrots, apples, new blankets and Blue Seal horse feed. Similar holiday treats will be delivered that day by League agents to working horses in stables throughout the area.

HOLIDAY PET PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

''Santa Paws'' will again be appearing at ''Especially for Pets,'' a department store for pets located at 1223 Chestnut St. in Newton, during a holiday benefit for homeless animals at the League's shelters. For the third consecutive year, the store is inviting area residents to bring their pets in for holiday photos with ''Santa Paws'' on Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, December 15, noon to 4 p.m. Photos are $4.99 each, with all proceeds to be donated to the League.



A HEART-FELT THANKS

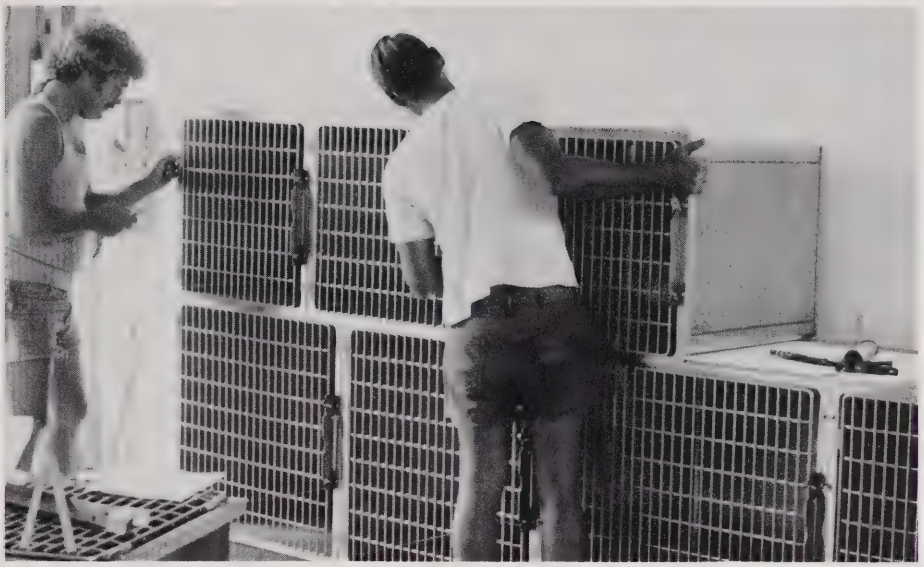
The League is deeply grateful to the Carney Hospital in Boston for its thoughtful donation of medical equipment for use in the outpatient clinic for small animals. The hospital generously provided the clinic with a Hewlett-Packard electrocardiograph, and a Hewlett-Packard cardiac monitor.

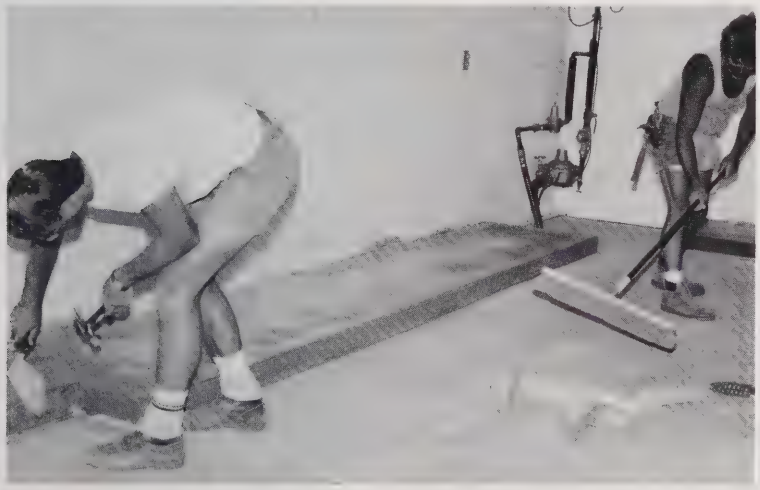
A NEW HOME FOR ''MOM''

Pictured in the fall issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends* with her litter of eight puppies, this formerly starving, stray canine mother prepares to go home with her new owner, Geraldine McQuoid of Rochdale. Mother and puppies, all of whom are in good health and now in good homes, were rescued by League agents from a burned-out building in Dorchester.

CAPE SHELTER GETS FACE-LIFT THANKS TO LEAGUE BENEFACTOR

The League's Cape Cod Branch in Brewster has had a major refurbishing thanks to a kind benefactor from East Orleans who wishes to remain anonymous. His major gift to the League of $10,000 was used to install new heavy-duty flooring, spacious cabinets and storage units, and purchase 19 brand new cages of various sizes to comfortably accommodate shelter animals. The League extends its deepest appreciation for this generous gesture of friendship.





Many of the League's members and friends in the past have chosen to help the animals served by the League by donating a needed piece of equipment. For those who would like to make such a gift, or contribute toward its purchase, the League is currently in need of:

- Any new or used Camcorders for use in video taping law enforcement investigations, rescues, League special events, and for training purposes. Prices will differ between new and used models.
- Lifting slings and pullies for use in rescuing large animals, in particular injured horses. Approximately $400 for a set.
- A Rule G2000 portable gasoline powered winch or comparable winch that is capable of pulling up to 8000 pounds. This item will be essential in all large animal rescues. List price — $800.

A GUIDE TO PET TRAVEL

More and more hotels are welcoming pets, according to the book "Take Your Pet USA, A Guide to Accommodations for Pets and Their Owners." The book, which includes tips on everything from travel cages to hotel pet etiquette, has just gone into a second printing, with additional hotel listings. It is available from Artco Publishing, 12 Channel St., Boston, MA 02210, at a cost of $9.95, plus $2 shipping.

Hearing Dogs

Dogs help people in many ways. In the past, some dogs were trained to deliver messages, pull sleds, find food, protect people and property, assist police officers, herd farm animals, or rescue people in danger. Today dogs do only a few of these jobs. People have found it easier to use machines to do the work.

More recently dogs have been trained to help people who are disabled. There are seeing eye dogs that help the blind, service dogs that help people confined to wheelchairs, and **Hearing Dogs** that help people who cannot hear as well as most people. These dogs are very important friends that are a big help to their masters.

Imagine not being able to hear. Try covering your ears for one full minute and ask someone in the same room to listen for sounds you miss. With the sound shut off you would not be able to answer the door if your friend rang the bell. You would not hear the telephone ring in the next room or your baby brother cry when he was hungry. After uncovering your ears you probably found many things you missed. **Hearing impaired** persons are unable to go to these sounds because they cannot hear them. Many of them have solved this problem by adopting a trained hearing dog.

It is not hard to find a young dog who would make a good hearing dog. In fact, many of the homeless dogs from the Animal Rescue League of Boston have been trained to be such dogs. Most hearing dogs are small to medium sized **mixed breed** dogs. They should be about one year old, healthy, easy to be with, quick to learn new things, and interested in various sounds. Once a dog is selected it goes through a special training program.

The first part of their training is learning basic **obedience** commands, such as: sit, come, down, heel, and stay. Then they must learn to listen carefully for special sounds. This part of the

training is called sound keying. Sounds often picked for sound keying include: an alarm clock, a smoke detector, a doorbell or buzzer, a baby's cry, and a telephone ring.

The hearing dog is trained to touch its master, or make contact by jumping up with its front paws, when one of the sounds occurs. The dog will then lead the hearing impaired person to the place where the sound is coming from. However, if the smoke detector goes off the dog will make contact with its master and then lie down in front of his or her feet. This warns the deaf person of a possible fire and allows them to take the dog and escape to safety.

FRIENDS

Training takes place at a hearing dog center which has a place for the dogs to sleep, eat, and play when they are not learning. It also has rooms that look like the inside of a house or apartment to teach the dog, during training, to better help a deaf person in his or her home.

In addition to training the hearing dog, the deaf owner also has to undergo training. A counselor from the hearing dog center will work with both the dog and the new owner. The counselor knows how to talk to a deaf person by using **sign language**. The counselor will teach the deaf person how to continue training in their home, after the dog has finished at the hearing dog center.

After three full months of being a helpful and important set of new "ears" for a deaf person, the dog becomes a true hearing dog. The owner is given a wallet-sized card to carry and a bright orange collar and leash for the dog. These things allow the dog to be with the owner at all times, even when they go to places, like restaurants, that usually do not allow dogs. Anyone who is at least 18 years old with a serious hearing problem may ask to own a hearing dog. Hearing impaired persons who own hearing dogs are better able to take care of their families, their houses, and themselves without having to depend on others.

There are about 35 hearing dog centers around the country. One of these centers is located in Massachusetts in the town of Stow. This is the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center. This year is the tenth year that Red Acre Farm has been training hearing dogs. They have trained many homeless dogs from the Animal Rescue League to be hearing dogs. In addition to helping make life better for hearing impaired people, Red Acre has also helped out many homeless dogs by providing them with new homes. The Animal Rescue League of Boston salutes Red Acre Farm for its ten years of helping both people and dogs.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Hearing Dogs – a dog trained to help a person who cannot hear

Hearing Impaired – a person who cannot hear as well as most people do.

Mixed breed – an animal with parents of different breeds.

Obedience – to do what one is told.

Sign language – a way to silently talk by using hand signals.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1 Bob Chandler of Essex, who recently adopted "T.J." and "Russell (Rocky)," writes: "They love to play together, and love to lounge, both inside and outside." Pictured here is Rocky, who "usually stays very close to home."

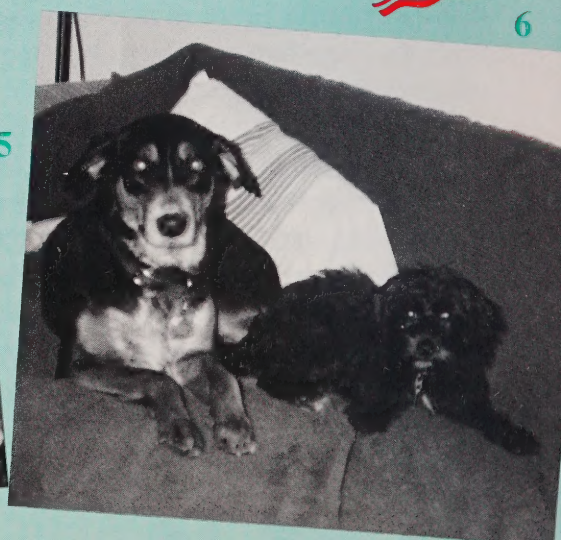
2 "Although they are not litter mates, these two guys are as close as any brothers," according to Leanne M. Morency of Salem who adopted "Opie" and "Gus" from the League in 1986. "Even though they come up with some unorthodox places to nap, they are the best roommates I could ever hope for."

3 "It has been two years since I adopted my two cats 'Corey' and 'Izzy' from the ARL, and they're just the best!" writes Alicia Dole of Rindge, N.H. "I couldn't be happier with them — thanks again."

4 Joan Rossetti of Boston sends a donation to the League in memory of her dog "Bijou," who died in 1990. "Your ambulance drivers rescued 'Bijou' from Storrow Drive where he was lying against the low concrete wall which divides the three east and west bound lanes. I am forever grateful for the 4½ years that I had him," she writes.

5 "He's a member of the family — another son," says Thomas Rexford of Wakefield of his newly-adopted terrier "Muggins," now five months old. "This is a great dog — family members love him, he's fun, smart, and we are lucky to have him."

6 Steve Worton of Dedham sends along this picture of "Buddy" and "Jenny," two friends he found at the Pine Ridge shelter. "No brother and sister have ever been closer," he writes. "Thank you, Animal Rescue League!"



Love comes in all colors and sizes...

...at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Give the gift of love to someone special this year...a present that won't be too big or too small, too dull or too daring, and will never have to be exchanged after the holidays. With a pet adoption gift certificate from the Animal Rescue League of Boston, they can pick out the pet of their choice—a gift that will bring enjoyment for many years to come—at any of the League's four conveniently-located adoption shelters.

A gift certificate for a puppy or kitten, older dog or cat, hamster, gerbil, or even a rabbit can be ordered by telephone, and charged to your credit card.

Animal Rescue League of Boston 10 Chandler St. • (617) 426-9170

Branches: **Dedham** (617) 326-0729 **Salem** (508) 744-7910 **E. Brewster** (508) 255-1030

A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

A WAY TO REMEMBER

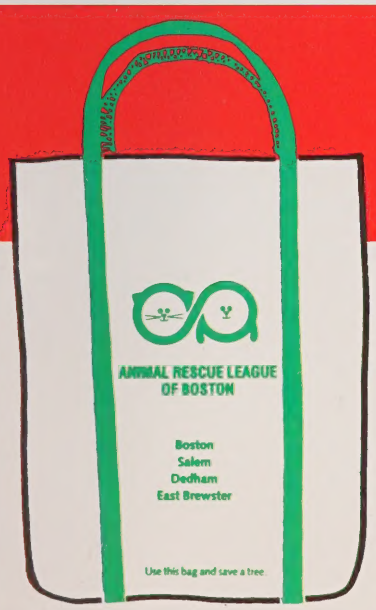
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



FOR HOLIDAY GIVING

NEW ARL TOTE BAG

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your purchases in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17″ × 11½″) with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

Photo by Marie Brais of Westborough who titled this picture "The Party's Over."

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117